

Dick  
Gary  
Rocco

CARIBOU COUNTY FLUORINE MEETING

November 13, 1980

Cecil Alldaffer called the meeting to order and then turned it over to Dr. Wiese who passed out the 1980 Fluorine Study Report.

He then discussed the operations of the various industrial plants in the area and their influence on the fluorine levels found here.

He stated that the samples were taken this year on June 25 and August 19, and that the samples were taken from areas tested in past years.

The fluorine levels this year were considerably lower than in past years. This year we had no samples over 40ppm of fluorine on the first sampling and only 5 samples read over 40ppm on the second sampling. This is the lowest fluorine reading we have had since 1966.

Dr. Wiese felt that this was largely due to two things: (1) the heavy rains we received in May and June which washed off the fluorine particles, and (2) the change in operation at some of the plants.

The August forage samples showed higher fluorine readings. This was partially due to lack of summer rains.

Hay samples were then discussed and he pointed out that the harvesting operation could make a lot of difference in the amount of fluorine showing up in the hay samples because the soils are high in fluorine.

Dr. Wiese stated that in the Pocatello area, wherever they had used slag in road-bed preparation, fluorine counts were quite high while the roads were under construction, but went down after construction was completed.

There was a question concerning Alumet's operation. Those present felt that Alumet has not done a lot this summer.

Dick Torgesen stated that he is still picking up high fluorine readings on his land and wondered where the fluorine would be coming from. (1) Could it come off the settling ponds, or (2) off the gypsum dikes around the pond. If so, how much? No one present could say just where the fluorine was coming from, or if there was any coming from the ponds or dike because no research has been carried out in those particular areas.

Dr. Wiese said that they needed to know if the companies and county are interested in continuing the testing program. Dick Torgesen and Grant Lau both stated they would like to have the program continued. With that in mind, each company affected said they would continue their funding and it was put in the 1980-81 county budget to cover their share of the expense. The program will be continued in 1981.

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Dick Torgesen asked about SO<sub>2</sub> and its effect on humans and vegetation. Dr. Wiese stated that, so far, no apparent symptoms have shown up on vegetation in the area from SO<sub>2</sub>. Dick stated that paint on his farm equipment and the galvanized roofing on sheds is seriously affected and wanted to know what would cause the damage. Some thought that perhaps SO<sub>3</sub> might be given off or produced in the atmosphere and had caused these problems. If not SO<sub>3</sub>, what might it be, because it is a serious health problem to his family and farm workers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Those present:

Ken Cox  
J. L. Barrus  
Paul Kowathis  
Perry Warner  
Richard Torgesen  
David Eaton  
Robert Anderson  
Bill Condie  
Grant Lau  
Dr. Wiese  
Cecil Alldaffer